Sources

The Foreign Relations statute requires that the published record in the Foreign Relations series include all records needed to provide comprehensive documentation on major foreign policy decisions and actions of the U.S. government. It further requires that government agencies, departments, and other entities of the U.S. Government cooperate with the Department of State Historian by providing full and complete access to records pertinent to foreign policy decisions and actions and by providing copies of selected records. The editor believes that in terms of access this volume was prepared in accordance with the standards and mandates of this statute, although access to some records was restricted, as noted below.

The editor had complete access to all the retired records and papers of the Department of State: the central files of the Department; the special decentralized files ("lot files") of the Department at the bureau, office, and division levels; the files of the Department's Executive Secretariat, which contain the records of international conferences and high-level official visits, correspondence with foreign leaders by the President and Secretary of State, and memoranda of conversations between the President and Secretary of State and foreign officials; and the files of overseas diplomatic posts. Intelligence-related files maintained by the Bureau of Intelligence and Research were fully available for use in this volume. Those files contain: minutes and related records of the 303 Committee, a high-level, interagency oversight board reviewing and approving intelligence operations and covert actions; the weekly and monthly meeting records of the Bureau of Far Eastern Affairs (later renamed the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs); and intelligence records pertaining to specific countries, regions, or events.

The editor of this volume of the *Foreign Relations* series also had full access to the papers of President Johnson and other White House foreign-policy records. Presidential papers maintained and preserved at the Presidential libraries include some of the most significant documentation related to foreign affairs from other federal agencies, including the National Security Council, the Central Intelligence Agency, the Department of Defense, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the National Security Agency, and the United States Information Agency. All of this documentation has been made available for use in the *Foreign Relations* series thanks to the consent of these agencies and the cooperation and support of the National Archives and Records Administration.

The Department of State arranged for access to the audiotapes of President Johnson's telephone conversations that are held at the Johnson Library. The first audiotapes became available to Department of State historians in late 1994, with most of those covering the later years of the Johnson Presidency following in 1995 and 1996.

Department of State historians also have access to records of the Department of Defense, particularly the records of the Secretaries of Defense and their major assistants and the records of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The editor of this volume also had access to the Papers of General Maxwell Taylor at the National Defense University.

Since 1991, the Central Intelligence Agency has provided expanded access to Department of State historians to high-level intelligence documents from those records still in the custody of that Agency. Access is arranged by the History Staff of the Center for the Study of Intelligence, Central Intelligence Agency, pursuant to a May 1992 memorandum of understanding. Department of State and CIA historians continue to work out the procedural and scholarly aspects of the access, which at this time is not yet unlimited or without deficiencies, and the variety of documentation made available and selected for publication in the volumes has expanded. The editor of this volume made particular use of the files of Deputy Director of Central Intelligence Richard Helms.

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